

Milestones

Department of Workforce Services

March 10, 2003

- **Day 71**, April 15, 2002, unveiled the nation's first complete Unemployment Insurance (UI) Web site. The site, jobs.utah.gov, is the most forward-looking, comprehensive unemployment system in the country, and offers eligible job seekers the ability to log on to file UI claims while also allowing all employers the ability to conduct all of their UI business (e.g. registering as new employers, accessing UI tax rates, researching UI tax laws and regulations, downloading UI tax forms and publications, etc.) online.
- **Day 110**, May 24, 2002, launched the "Just For Youth" Web site at jobs.utah.gov. This youth-focused, occupation and career opportunity information site will be a portal for linking youth, school counselors, and parents to career information and intern and education opportunities.
- **Day 155**, July 8, 2002, DWS Receives \$3.8 Million High Performance bonus for its successful efforts in welfare reform. Utah recognized for its success in moving welfare recipients to work and sustaining their success in the workplace.
- **Day 178**, July 31, 2002, The Department of Workforce Services' Office of Child Care awarded \$308,000 to childcare providers throughout the state to provide start up and expansion funds for child care services in Utah in order to expand capacity and serve more working Utah families. The goal of these grants is to provide 25 child care slots per one hundred children who need care.
- **Day 194**, August 16, 2002, added \$550,000.00 to the SMART site project from its federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant, nearly half of which (or \$250,000) will be used specifically for medical coding training for members of low-income rural families, an important part of the Governor's Rural Health Informatics Ecosystem.
- **Day 271**, November 1, 2002, reallocates resources to appoint a Spanish language expert and community outreach specialist. Provides outreach to Spanish-speaking community and translates important literature and correspondence.
- **Day 274**, November 4, 2002, unveils new online job matching system jobs.utah.gov. The Internet-based self-service component will allow customers to register, update their information, and refer themselves to jobs posted on the system. For employers the system will allow them to register, post and modify their job postings, and view the customer database/resumes for referrals to fill current job openings.
- **Day 284**, November 14, 2002, release of Cultural Integration and Limited English Language Skills Survey results. As part of the Governor's English-skill building initiative, the Cultural Integration Advisory Committee (CIAC, formed as part of the State Council on Workforce Services) surveyed over 1000 randomly selected Utah employers to quantify the impacts of cultural integration and limited English skills issues and challenges.

- **Day 289**, November 19, 2002, realigns divisions for maximum impact on workforce and economic development. In order to better meet the initiatives of the Governor's *1000-Day Economic Plan*, Raylene Ireland, DWS Executive Director, creates the Workforce Development and Information Division out of current resources.
- **Day 304**, December 4, 2002, issues a request for grant applications for Cultural Integration and Limited English Language Skills Building. \$250,000.00 of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF federal grant) money is available to develop diversity strategies and English skill building for ten pre-selected Utah employers and their incumbent workers. The grants will be made available as part of the Governor's English-skill building initiative.
- **Day 317**, December 17, 2002, builds coalition to increase usage of Earned Income Tax Credit Program (EITC) for working families. Representatives of this coalition include West Valley City, Zions Bank, and the Utah Tax Commission.
- **Day 332**, January 1, 2003, increases Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefit amount. Increase in benefits for UI Insurance claimants who establish benefit year on or after January 1, 2003. The maximum weekly benefit amount will be \$373, up from \$365.
- **Day 338**, January 7, 2003, West Valley Employment Center officially opens for business, filling critical need in western Salt Lake Valley. The new full-service, one-stop Employment Center represents a partnership with the Utah College of Applied Technology, as both agencies are located in the same building.
- **Day 341**, January 10, 2003, Workgroup convenes to address limited English and cultural integration issues. Membership comprised of DWS staff, Centro De Familia, Multi-Cultural Legal Center, Utah State Representative David Litvack, the National Conference for Community and Justice, Community Advocacy Groups, the State Office of Hispanic Affairs, and others.
- **Day 353**, January 22, 2003, Granite School District Adult and Community Education Division awarded the \$250,000.000 Cultural Integration and English Skills Building Grant. In conjunction with the Governor's English-skill building initiative, the grantee will develop a comprehensive and successful program for cultural integration in the workplace.
- **Day 372**, February 10, 2003, DWS recognizes partnership with Home Depot for all its hiring needs. DWS joins America's Workforce Network with Home Depot to highlight the partnership with the national one stop system in assisting Home Depot with its hiring needs.
- **Day 391**, March 1, 2003, Virtual Rapid Response posted on jobs.utah.gov. Web accessible re-employment placed on DWS website jobs.utah.gov for those dislocated workers unable to attend Rapid Response Workshops in person.
- **Day 393**, March 3, 2003, Form 61-APP pilot project begins. After months of working with customer advocacy representatives, DWS Executive Director announces the new application form will enter a piloting phase in anticipation of statewide use in the coming few months. The new application is more customer friendly and reduced from ten pages to five.
- **Day 394**, March 4, 2003, Marks four months since the launch of jobs.utah.gov. In four months 242,000 plus referrals made, 772 jobs posted by employers, 952 hires posted by employers, 17,800 new registrations.